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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/723,472

11/26/2003

Feng Chen

TI-35189

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10/26/2005

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED
P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999
DALLAS, TX 75265

EXAMINER

WAMSLEY, PATRICK G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2819

DATE MAILED: 10/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,472	CHEN, FENG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Patrick G. Wamsley	2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-12 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 and 21-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. Claims 13-20 are still withdrawn from consideration as readable upon non-elected species.

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art, hereafter APA, in view of "A Study of Dynamic Element-Matching Techniques for 3-Level Unit Elements" to Rombouts et al, hereafter Rombouts.

For independent claims 1 and 21, APA suppresses digital to analog, hereafter DAC, error arising from DAC element mismatch by means of dynamic element matching, hereafter DEM [Page 1, ¶0007]. However, instead of using a low pass profile, APA produces either white noise or a high pass profile [¶0012, as amended by applicant on 09/26/2005].

In contrast, Rombouts discloses bandpass mismatch shaping [Page 1182]. For low frequencies, a bandpass filter presents a "low pass profile," satisfying independent claims 1 and 21. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have applied the bandpass teachings of Rombouts to Leung. The motivation would have been to push the error out of the band of interest, as suggested by Rombouts [Page 1182].

For claims 2 and 22, the APA / Rombouts combination would have used only a single pointer per clock cycle.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-12 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the references of record neither reveal nor render obvious the recited combination including a low pass averaging (LPA) index decoder configured to producing DAC error in a low pass profile.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent 6,795,003 to Wang et al shows a DEM method for $\Sigma\Delta$ DACs. U.S. Patent 6,518,899 to Yu describes a DEM technique involving removal of out-of-band noise by an analog LPF. U.S. Patent 6,314,156 to Moll et al discloses a barrel shifter circuit.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick G. Wamsley whose telephone number is (571) 272-1814. The official facsimile number is (703) 872-9306. An alternate facsimile number, (571) 273-1814, should only be used for unofficial documents.



Patrick G. Wamsley

October 21, 2005